Jamie Hepburn MSP, Minister for Sport, Health Improvement and Mental Health, opened NHS Ayrshire & Arran’s recent Mental Health Services Quality Symposium 2015.

The symposium runs every two years, and gives delegates the opportunity to share good practice between mental health services, in order to support the implementation of safer, more effective, person-centred care.

Dr Martin Cheyne, Chairman of Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board explained: “This event recognises the contribution of clinical staff to delivering high quality care. It celebrates key successes within the service, and is an opportunity to share good practice and ideas.

“This year’s event focused on the integration of health and social care and the improvements which have already been made, and which go beyond our traditional boundaries in health and social care.”

Jamie Hepburn MSP joined more than 100 delegates to hear about developments in the last two years, and to learn more about how mental health services will change in the future.

Dr Cheyne said: “We were delighted that Mr Hepburn took the time to attend our symposium and hear more about the fantastic work in Ayrshire and Arran.

“NHS Ayrshire & Arran, along with our three local authority partners, formed Scotland's first Integration Joint Boards on 2 April 2015. Our staff are working hard to ensure we deliver the three strategic plans in the East, North and South health and social care partnerships. We know that there is a long way to go. But by working together, we can ensure the best mental and physical health for everyone in Ayrshire and Arran.”

Jamie Hepburn MSP, Minister for Sport, Health Improvement and Mental Health added: “I was delighted to be invited to see the fantastic work going on in Ayrshire and Arran.”
“The integration of health and social care means that our local authorities and health service work more closely together to benefit service users.

“The three partnerships in Ayrshire and Arran are the first of their kind in Scotland. We look forward to hearing more about their work over the coming years.

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(Left to right) Derek Barron, Associate Nurse Director - Mental Health Services, Angela Rowe, Quality Improvement and Assurance Coordinator, Jamie Hepburn MSP, Minister for Sport, Health Improvement and Mental Health, Dr Martin Cheyne, Chairman of Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board, and Iona Colvin, Director of North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership.

Jamie Hepburn MSP, Minister for Sport, Health Improvement and Mental Health, opened the Mental Health Services Quality Symposium 2015.
Delegates took time to have a look at the poster exhibition.